aggregate limit will be arrived farmer-wise.

Fall in Prices of F.C.V. Tobacco

1730. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any complaints against Tobacco Board for the fall in prices of F.C.V. tobacco during this season; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps are being taken to redress the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of FCV tobacco in A.P. is estimated to be around 86 M.Kgs. against the target of 75 M.Kgs. According to the Tobacco Board the average price for FCV tobacco at the auctions in A.P. as on 11-5-90 was Rs. 15.05 per kg. The Tobacco Board has clarified that the prices at the auctions last year were initially high but went down subsequently and the average price for the entire season was 16.59 per kg. The USSR firmed up its orders only in April, 1990 and prices have picked up marginally thereafter. The Commerce Ministry held a meeting with the tobacco trade on 26th April, 1990 in a bid to secure better prices to the farmers. The STC has since moved into the market w.e.f. 2.5.90 and the tobacco prices have shown improvement.

Committee on Electoral Reforms

1731. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Electoral Reforms has submitted its recommendations; if so, what are its main recommendations;

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether the Election Commission proposes to issue identity cards to voters, if so, the main features of the scheme and total cost likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The main recommendations of the Committee are given in the enclosed statement. (*see* below)

(b) The recommendations are under active consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir, in a phased manner. The identity card may be laminated and will contain the photograph, name and other particulars of the holder. The card will help in establishing the identity of its holder for various purposes including identification as a voter and will help in preventing impersonation. The card would also be used for various other purposes like rationing, health benefits etc. The total expenditure on the scheme as estimated by the Election Commission is likely to be about Rs. 175 crores.

Statement

Main Recommendations of the Committee on Electoral Reforms

1. The Election Commission to be a three member body. The appointment of Chief Election Commissioner to be in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition. The CEC to be consulted for appointment of other Members.

2. A fresh delimitation on the basis of 1981 census. Rotation of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes.

3. Introduction of multi-purpose photo identity cards.

4. No individual to be allowed to contest from more than two constituencies.

5. Non-serious candidates to be discourages. Security deposit of independent candidates to be raised. Forfeiture of security deposit for failure to secure less than 1/4th of the votes polled.

6. Statutory backing for important provisions of model Code of Conduct.

7. Use of electronic voting machines in all future elections.

8. A series of legislative measures to be undertaken to eradicate booth capturing, rigging and intimidation of voters.

9. State funding in kind to a limited extent to recognised political parties, to begin with.

10. Plying of automobiles, carrying of firearms, sale and distribution of liquor on poll day to be electoral offences.

11. Disqualification under Anti-defection law to be restricted to voluntary resignation and voting or abstention against party whip only in the case of vote of confidence, money bill or vote of thanks to the President. President or Governor to decide the issue of disqualification after obtaining the Election Commission's opinion.

12. Constitution of an Expert Committee to go further into the question of change of the present electoral system.

13. A standing Committee to the Parliament to go into all electoral matters.

Conversion of Salem Steel Rolling Plant into a Full-Fledged Steel Plant

1732. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:
SHRI J.S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is Central Government's plan for the conversion of Salem Steel Rolling Plant into a full-fledged Steel Plant which is a long felt need; and

(b) by when the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) There is presently no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Illegal Mining Around Delhi

1733. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Hindustan (Hindi) of the 9th May, 1990 to the effect that three persons including two women have died due to an accident in Badarpur mines in Delhi;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that illegal mining is going on in and around Delhi and workers are exploited by the contractors;

(c) if so, what are Government's plans to check illegal mining and by when; and

(d) whether any financial help will be given to the families of the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The accident, however, occurred near Mahipalpur stone mines.

(b) and (c) Instances of illegal mining are reported from time to time. The Collector of Mines and Quarries, Delhi Administration has taken various steps to curb illegal mining which include launching of prosecution and lodging FIRs with the local police. In order to ensure safe and scientific mining all the